

# Form 30: Sample Press Release

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## City Life and Bank Tenants Association Plan to Physically Block Meyers Family Eviction

**Activists demand "Let them pay rent or take offer at appraised value."**

**When:** Wednesday, April 16, 9 am.

**Where:** 200 Norfolk St., near Codman Sq., in Dorchester

**Contacts:** Organization Name [phone number], Organizer [Extension and/or cell]

Attorney representing the Meyers [office and cell numbers]

Interviews with Meyers family available on request

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Four brothers and sisters, plus 6 children, live at \_\_\_\_\_ [street address] in \_\_\_\_\_ [town] in three apartments. They also run a licensed day care center that serves 6 other children. US Bank (trustee) and Premier Asset Servicers (affiliated with Wells Fargo) are seeking to evict them all after foreclosure.

The families were tenants, paying rent of \$1,000-\$1,300. They offered to continue to pay rent to the Bank. The Banks said no. Alister Meyers, living in apt. #3, got approved for a mortgage and offered to buy the building for the full appraised value. The Bank said no. A local landlord offered to buy the building at appraised value and keep the tenants. The Bank said no! "Why don't they just take our rent, or take our brother's offer for appraised value?" asked Arita Meyers, a tenant at 200 Norfolk St. "There is no reason to evict."

"The family is offering to buy the building from the Bank at full market value," said Dave Haller, a law student representing the family. "By definition, the Bank can't get any more than that from a third party if they evict the family. Not only do the Bank's actions make no moral sense, they make no economic sense either."

Arita and her sister Alicia, along with one child each, live at 200 Norfolk St. Alicia runs the day care center out of her home, serving 6 other children. The Bank has an eviction order to put Arita out on the street on Wednesday, April 16. City Life and the Bank Tenants Association plan to physically block the eviction if the bank does not reconsider.

US Bank and Premier Asset Servicers sought an eviction against the Meyers in March, but court action stayed the execution of the eviction. "The court will grant no further stays," said Steve Meacham, an organizer with City Life/Vida Urbana. "Either the Bank reconsiders or we will sit in the doorway." City Life has carried out and threatened similar actions around the City to stop Bank evictions.

After foreclosure, Banks and mortgage companies evict all occupants, including both former owners and tenants. Such evictions will likely affect 2000 Boston families in 2008. City Life's Bank Tenant Association has been demanding that Banks stop all post-foreclosure, "no-fault" evictions and simply accept occupants' rents. "We can't accept that 2000 families could be forcibly evicted in 2008 without cause," declared Cheryl Lawrence, another City Life organizer. "Everyone is concerned about vacant buildings dragging down neighborhoods. The way to prevent that is to keep these buildings occupied!"

"The Banks' mortgage value reflects the real estate bubble they helped create. The Banks can't recoup that money," continued Steve Meacham, another City Life organizer. "Instead of admitting their loss, they want to evict. That's why we need a just-cause eviction law. Sen. Dianne Wilkerson and Rep. Liz Malia have filed such legislation. A local version will be the subject of a hearing at City Council on April 23 at City Hall. The Meyers eviction shows why this legislation is so important."

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